



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS In-Car Camera Grant Program

"IN-CAR CAMERAS PROVIDE AN OBJECTIVE RECORD OF THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE CITIZENS THEY SERVE. THEY ENHANCE OFFICER SAFETY AS WELL AS ENCOURAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALISM AND PUBLIC COOPERATION."

*CARL R. PEED, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED
POLICING SERVICES*

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) recognized a continuing need for safety and accountability in law enforcement with the In-Car Camera grant program. The In-Car Camera program has provided more than 5,000 vehicle-based video camera systems to law enforcement agencies since fiscal year 2000. These in-car cameras deter assaults on officers, provide evidence in trials, offer excellent training resources, increase law enforcement accountability, and help build an agency's credibility within the community it serves. COPS has awarded more than \$21 million to 49 state law enforcement agencies and the District of Columbia through the In-Car Camera program.

Background

COPS began implementing the In-Car Camera program in fiscal year 2000 with \$12 million. Requests for these grants far exceeded available resources. Appropriations allowed COPS to offer these grants again in fiscal years 2001, 2002, and 2003.

COPS In-Car Camera Grant Program

COPS awarded nearly \$3.2 million through the In-Car Camera program during fiscal year 2003. COPS also provides training to current In-Car Camera grantees. This training helps law enforcement professionals maximize the effectiveness of the cameras and use in-car cameras to foster a higher level of professionalism among grantees.

Specialized training courses offered by the Law Enforcement Mobile Video Institute (LEMVI) directly confront issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, civil rights violations, police integrity, and lack of public trust. The instructors of LEMVI have been providing training to police personnel on in-car videotaping since 1988.

Finally, COPS partnered with the International Association of Chiefs of Police to fund an evaluation of the In-Car Camera program. This evaluation will determine how effective the cameras have been in increasing officer safety, improving conviction rates, reducing citizen complaints, and preventing racial profiling.

For more information about COPS' In-Car Camera program, please visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov or call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 800.421.6770.